

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 TOKYO 11691 10064

11

ACTION AGR-20

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 EB-11 SWF-02 COME-00 SP-03 AID-20

NSC-07 RSC-01 CIEP-03 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01

CEA-02 DRC-01 /111 W

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P 100600Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4454

UNCLAS TOKYO 11691

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD,JA

SUBJECT: GRAPERFRUIT/CARIBFLY

REF: (A) TOKYO 11518 (B) TOKYO 11408 (C) TOKYO 9015
(D) FASTO 382

1. IN MEETING RE SUBJECT CALLED YESTERDAY BY MATSUMOTO,
DIRECTOR GEN., AGRIC. PRODUCTION BUREAU, MAF, MATSUMOTO
PRESENTED FOLLOWING OFFICIAL (WRITTEN) STATEMENT TO AGATT:
(FULL TRANSLATION)

TO: MR. L.F. THOMASSON, AGRICULTURAL ATTACHE, AMERICAN
EMBASSY

FROM: MR. T. MATSUMOTO, DIRECTOR-GENERAL, AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCTION BUREAU, MAF

SUBJ: IMPORTATION OF FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT

A. BECAUSE CARIBBEAN FRUIT FLY LARVAE WERE DISCOVERED IN
SEVERAL SHIPMENTS OF FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT ARRIVING HERE AFTER
MAY, WE REQUESTED YOU BY OUR LETTER OF JULY 9 (SEE REF. C),
TO INFORM US AS TO WHAT SORT OF APPROPRIATE MEASURES WILL
BE TAKEN IN ORDER TO PREVENT FURTHER SHIPMENTS OF FLORIDA
RAPEFRUIT INFESTED WITH FRUIT FLY. ALSO WE ADVISED YOU
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 TOKYO 11691 100646Z

THAT IF WE CANNOT REACH AN AGREEABLE SOLUTION OF THE

PROBLEM PRIOR TO THE NEXT SHIPPING SEASON BETWEEN THE QUARANTINE AUTHORITIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES, WE MAY HAVE TO REQUEST YOUR COUNTRY TO VOLUNTARILY RESTRICT EXPORTS OF FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT TO OUR COUNTRY (REF. C, PARA 3-D).

B. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE CONCERNING THE RESEARCH AND TESTS BEING IMPLEMENTED BY THE PARTIES CONCERNED IN YOUR COUNTRY. HOWEVER, THE CONTENTS OF THIS INFORMATION IS NOT SATISFACTORY TO US. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE JUDGE THAT THE POSSIBILITY OF OBTAINING THE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM PRIOR TO THE IMPENDING SHIPPING SEASON IS VERY SMALL.

C. ACCORDING TO TRADE SOURCES, SOME IMPORTERS ARE PLANNING TO MAKE IMPORTATION OF FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT DURING THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER. IF SUCH IMPORTS ARE MADE BEFORE THE SETTLEMENT OF THE PROBLEM, WE ARE FEARFUL THAT THE PROBLEM WILL BECOME MORE AND MORE DIFFICULT TO SOLVE AND IT WILL INVITE AN EXTREMELY REGRETFUL SITUATION FOR BOTH COUNTRIES.

D. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, WE REQUEST YOUR DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO COOPERATE IN VOLUNTARILY RESTRICTING THE EXPORTS OF FLORIDA GRAPEFRUIT TO JAPAN UNTIL WE CAN REACH AN AGREEABLE SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM BETWEEN THE QUARANTINE AUTHORITIES OF THE TWO COUNTRIES.

E. WE WISH TO RECEIVE YOUR REPLY BY SEPTEMBER 20 WITH REGARD TO WHAT ACTION WILL BE TAKEN BY YOUR DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE ENSURING THE VOLUNTARY EXPORT CONTROL. (FOR EXAMPLE, CAN YOU TEMPORARILY SUSPEND THE ISSUANCE OF THE USDA PHYTOSANITARY CERTIFICATE OR TAKE EVEN STRONGER MEASURES OF ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE? (END TRANSLATION)

2. AGATT EXPLAINED THAT WHEREAS QUOTE ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE UNQUOTE IN JAPAN IS FAMOUS WORLD-WIDE FOR ITS EFFECTIVENESS, SIMILAR ATTEMPTS OF THE PART OF USDA HAVE HISTORICALLY PROVEN LESS THAN FULLY EFFECTIVE IN THE U.S. REFERRING TO REF. D AGATT ALSO STATED THAT AT THIS POINT IT APPEARS NEITHER FEDERAL NOR STATE AGENCIES IN U.S. HAVE LEGAL AUTHORITY TO RESTRICT SHIPMENTS, BUT BOTH USDA AND FLORIDA UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 TOKYO 11691 100646Z

STATE ARE USING AND WILL CONTINUE TO USE BEST EFFORTS TO GET SHIPPERS TO REFRAIN FROM SHIPPING.

3. MATSUMOTO REPLIED THAT ALTHOUGH JAPANESE QUOTE ADMINISTRATIVE GUIDANCE UNQUOTE IS FAMOUS FOR ITS EFFECTIVENESS, IT IS HARDLY EVER 100 PERCENT EFFECTIVE. PROBLEM NOW IS THAT 1 PERCENT OF JAPANESE IMPORTERS HAVE REFUSED TO COOPERATE AND SEEM DETERMINED TO IMPORT. IF THEY ARE SUCCESSFUL, OTHERS WHO

HAVE COOPERATED WILL FEEL COMPELLED TO GO BACK INTO BUSINESS. IF IT BECOMES IMPOSSIBLE TO PREVENT IMPORTS BEFORE SOLUTION IS REACHED, MATSUMOTO EXPLAINED MAF WILL BE FORCED TO TAKE VERY UNDESIRABLE ACTION, VIZ., THEY WILL HAVE TO AMEND THE PRESENT PLANT QUARANTINE REGULATIONS TO INCLUDE CARIBBEAN FRUIT FLY IN THE LIST OF INJURIOUS INSECTS. THIS CAN BE DONE ADMINISTRATIVELY, I.E., WITHOUT DIET APPROVAL. IF DONE IT WOULD GIVE MAF AUTHORITY TO ORDER RETURN OF EVERY SHIPMENT ARRIVING HERE. ALSO, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE LAW, ADMINISTRATION OF THE AMENDMENT WOULD OF NECESSITY APPLY TO ALL CITRUS FRUITS IN CONTINENTAL USA, I.E., SHIPMENTS FROM CALIFORNIA AND TEXAS WOULD ALSO BE AFFECTED.

4. MATSUMOTO EXPLAINED THEY ARE EXTREMELY DESIRIOUS OF AVOIDING NECESSITY OF AMENDING LAW TO INCLUDE CARIBFLY, NOT ONLY BECAUSE OF COMPLICATIONS EXPLAINED ABOVE BUT BECAUSE ONCE AN INSECT GETS ON THE OFFICIAL LIST IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO GET IT OFF, I.E., IT WOULD TAKE MUCH LONGER THAN PRESENT EFFORTS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE IN SOLVING PROBLEM.

5. MATSUMOTO WAS ACCOMPANIED BY FUKUDA, KOJIMA AND TAKADA, ALL OF PLANT PROTECTION DIV. THEY SAID THEY ARE MOST CONCERNED ABOUT NON COOPERATION SOME IMPORTERS WHO ARE APPARENTLY CONTRACTING TO IMPORT USING THE FIVE SHIPS MENTIONED REF A.

6. AGATT ANNOUNCED APPROVAL OF TOKYO VISIT BY HATTON AND BURDITT SCHEDULED SEPT. 22. MATSUMOTO WAS PLEASED WITH THIS NEWS BUT REQUESTED THAT USDA SEND NOT ONLY THESE TWO TECHNICAL PEOPLE BUT ALSO AND PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANTLY SOMEONE WHO CAN MAKE DECISIONS FOR USDA. FUKUDA SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE BEST IF WITH HATTON AND BURDITT, FITZSIMMONDS UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 TOKYO 11691 100646Z

AND RAINWATER COULD COME. (FYI: SEPT. 16 AND 23 ARE JAPANESE HOLIDAYS, MAF WILL BE CLOSED.) MATSUMOTO SUGGESTED IT WOULD BE BETTER IF TEAM COULD ARRIVE ONE WEEK EARLIER TO BEGIN DISCUSSIONS SEPT. 17 BUT HE ASSUMES SEPT. 22 ARRIVAL TIME SET TO ALLOW FOR COMPLETION OF FUMIGATION RESEARCH UNDERWAY. IF SO, DISCUSSIONS CAN BEGIN SEPT. 24; BUT SEPT. 17 MUCH BETTER.

7. AGATT ATTEMPTED PERSUADE MATSUMOTO TO POSTPONE SEPT. 20. DEADLINE DATE FOR ANSWER TO OFFICIAL STATEMENT ABOVE, BUT MATSUMOTO DECLINED TO DO SO STATING HE FELT ITS ANSWER WOULD NOT DEPEND ON TEAMS ARRIVAL OR PRESENTATIONS.

8. REPRESENTATIVE OF NICHIREN (JAPAN FRUIT GROWERS) VISITED AGATT OFFICE TODAY (SEPT. 10) AND SUGGESTED THAT SINCE

TAIWAN IS SHIPPING QUOTE POMKAN UNQUOTE (SHADDOCK)
TO JAPAN WITH MAF APPROVAL OF AN EDB DIPPING METHOD TO
CONTROL MELON FLY, I.E., FRUIT IS DIPPED IN EDB SOLUTION
BEFORE PACKING. PERHAPS THIS METHOD COULD BE USED IN
FLORIDA. HE ALSO SUGGESTED THAT USDA TEAM SHOULD CONSIST OF
DECISION MAKERS AS WELL AS TECHNICIANS AND SHOULD COME BEFORE
WEEK OF SEPT. 22 IF AT ALL POSSIBLE. SAID GROWERS BECOMING
ADAMANT RE SUBJ. AND ARE URGING NICHENREN TO HOLD SPECIAL
CONVENTION TO DEVELOP STRATEGY TO GET GOJ TO BAN IMPORTS.

9. ACTION REQUESTED: (A) PLEASE ADD FITZSIMMONDS AND
RAINWATER TO HATTON/BURDITT TEAM AND SEND THEM ONE WEEK
EARLIER IF POSSIBLE. (B) PLEASE ADVISE ASAP OF OFFICIAL
USDA ANSWER TO MAF STATEMENT PARA E (C) PLEASE ASK
BURDITT, ET., AL. POSSIBILITIES OF USING EDB DIPPING
METHOD AS SUGGESTED BY OISHI IN PARA 8.

10. FASTO 386 JUST RECEIVED. STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT IF
RAINWATER ABSOLUTELY CANNOT COME SUITABLE APHIS SUBSTITUTE
BE SENT.
HODGSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOOD INSPECTION, CITRUS FRUITS, IMPORT QUOTAS, PESTS OF PLANTS, GRAPEFRUIT, CARIBFLY, DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 SEP 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TOKYO11691
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740251-0211
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740958/aaaabwya.tel
Line Count: 190
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AGR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) TOKYO 11518 (B) TOKYO 11408 (C), TOKYO 9015
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: smithrj
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2002 by maustmc>; APPROVED <31 JAN 2003 by smithrj>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: GRAPERFRUIT/CARIBFLY
TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, JA, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005